

JETHRO BONNEY.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 422.]

MARCH 23, 1860.

Mr. TAPPAN, from the Committee on Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Jethro Bonney, "praying compensation for loss of property at the invasion of Plattsburg," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report :

That during the war of 1812 the petitioner raised and commanded a company of infantry in the State of New York, under a commission from his excellency D. D. Tompkins, then governor of the State, bearing date September 21, 1812. The records of the War Office show that he was in service with his company in the month of August, 1813, and he claims to have served also at the battle of Plattsburg in 1814 ; but of this he failed to produce record evidence. In reply to his application for the bounty land to which he seemed to be entitled, the Commissioner of Pensions said, "unless record evidence in some form can be found that Captain Bonney had a command at the invasion of Plattsburg, as alleged, his claim cannot allowed." There was ample parol evidence of the fact, but the claimant was unable to produce a written record of his service, and he failed to receive the small bounty voted him by his country.

But during and at the time of the invasion of Plattsburg, Captain Bonney had a small grocery store, which stood near the bridge, which interfered with the range of the American cannon in defending that point, and the storehouse was accordingly demolished by order of the American commander. The present claim is for compensation for the house thus destroyed, which he values at \$400. Allen Sherman, a witness for Captain Bonney in his application for bounty land, stated that "he assisted in tearing up the bridge to prevent the British forces from crossing it, and assisted our troops in tearing down a grocery of the said Captain Bonney, which stood near said bridge, and which interfered with the range of the American cannon which was placed there to defend said bridge, and that said building was worth about \$400." The petitioner has never received any compensation for the said loss of property, and is now upwards of 88 years of age, with his entire estate valued at *ten dollars*. Under all the circumstances surrounding the case, and in consideration of the patriotic services of Cap-

tain Bonney, who has never received any bounty from the government, but without any recognition of the claim as based on the destruction of his grocery store, your committee think his petition entitled to the favorable consideration of Congress; and they therefore report a bill for his relief, and earnestly recommend its passage.

REPORT.

That during the war of 1812 the petitioner resided and maintained a grocery at Detroit in the State of New York under a commission from the Honorable D. D. Thompson, then Governor of the State, bearing date September 21, 1812. The records of the War Office show that he was in service with his company in the month of August, 1812, and he claims to have served also at the battle of Plattsburgh in 1812; but of this he submitted no evidence. It is only to be regretted for the former fact is shown by record to be correct the Commission of Thompson said "no other record evidence in our town was in favor of Captain Bonney, but a document at the residence of Plattsburgh as alleged, his claim cannot allow." There was no other record evidence in the fact, but the document was unable to produce a written record of his service, and he failed to produce the small bounty voted him by his country.

But during and at the time of the invasion of Plattsburgh, Captain Bonney had a small grocery store, which stood near the bridge, which interfered with the passage of the American cannon in debouching the point, and the storehouse was accordingly demolished by order of the American commander. The present claim is for compensation for the house then destroyed, which he values at \$400. Alfred Sherman, a witness for Captain Bonney in his application for bounty land, stated that "he assisted in tearing up the bridge to prevent the British forces from crossing it, and assisted our troops in tearing down a grocery of the said Captain Bonney, which stood near said bridge, and which interfered with the range of the American cannon which was placed there to defend said bridge, and that said building was worth about \$400." The petitioner has never received any compensation for the said loss of property, and is now upwards of 85 years of age, with his entire estate valued at ten dollars. Under all the circumstances concerning the case, and in consideration of the patriotic services of Cap-